

COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956.

Report on the Health of the Isle of Wight for the Year 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Isle of Wight County Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and on the Island's vital statistics for the year 1956. There is nothing in these statistics to suggest that the year was in any way an exceptional one.

The weekly returns of new sickness claims among the insured population showed the usual peak in January, but this was not unduly high reaching approximately 370 out of an insured population of approximately 34,000.

As this will be my last annual report to you it might be interesting to note the changes which have taken place during the 31 years I have spent as a member of your public health medical staff.

In 1926 the Island had no facilities for bacteriological examinations with the result that all specimens had to be sent to a laboratory in London. In 1927 the County Bacteriological Laboratory was established in the old County Hall and this at once was appreciated by the general practitioners. The fact that there was, right in the centre of the Island, a laboratory, to which they could bring or send specimens of importance, for diagnostic purposes and often obtain an immediate report, was a great boon to the doctors. I believe that this has been very largely the reason for the great co-operation the department has enjoyed from the Island's general practitioners.

Another change of some importance was the gradual replacement of part-time medical officers of health by full-time officers so that by 1935 two whole-time medical officers of health, who were also assistant county medical officers, had replaced nine part-time medical officers. I believe that this has proved an efficient arrangement. It has ensured the utmost co-operation between the Health Departments of the Local Authorities and the County Health Department and brought the personal and environmental health services into intimate contact.

The greatest change of all, of course, was the introduction of the National Health Service Act of 1946. This Act relieved County Councils of some of their responsibilities for the personal health services but added other important duties.

Statistics can be misleading and boring but it may be of some interest to read a few vital statistics which show the trend of the public health for the past 30 years in the Island.

	1926	1955
Death Rate	12.9	10.7
Birth Rate	13.1	14.4
Infant Mortality Rate	39.4	21.2
Maternal Mortality Rate	4.4	0.82
Tuberculosis Mortality Rate	0.93	0.11

The figures which stand out are, of course, the big reduction in the number of maternal deaths per 1,000 births (4.4 to 0.82) and in the number of tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 of the population (0.93 to 0.11).

Another gratifying feature is the very marked reduction in morbidity from diphtheria. During the 10 years from 1926 to 1935, 357 cases of diphtheria were notified with 15 deaths, whereas in the 10 years 1946 to 1955 there were 31 notifications with two deaths.

I would like to express to your Committee my appreciation and gratitude for all the help and consideration I have received especially during the first few years when the changes following on the National Health Service Act were being made. To your Chairman my very special thanks are due for her constant encouragement, her kindly criticism and her unfailing courtesy, nor can I ever adequately thank my own staff, especially the lay staff of both the health and welfare sections for their loyalty to myself and the department and for their industry.

Finally to the Clerk of the Council, his staff, the other chief officers and their staffs I render my sincerest thanks for all their help.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM S. WALLACE.

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.
March, 1957.

Throughout this Report the figures in brackets refer to those of the previous year.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1956.

Area.	Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales: Rate per 1000
No. of live births	217	236	267	260	129	59	1168	
Males	113	131	141	120	64	31	600	
Females	104	105	126	140	65	28	568	
No. of still births	7	7	6	2	4	1	27	
Males	4	4	3	1	3	1	16	
Females	3	3	3	1	1	—	11	
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population (crude)	12.3	14.0	13.2	13.0	10.3	8.7	12.4	15.7
Comparative factor for calculation of Birth Rate	1.16	1.08	1.13	1.09	1.20	1.09	1.12	
Comparative Birth Rate	14.3	15.1	14.9	14.2	12.3	9.5	13.9	
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	31.3	28.8	21.9	7.6	30.0	16.7	22.6	23.0
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	5	4	2	2	3	20	
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births... ..	18.4	21.2	15.0	7.7	15.5	50.8	17.1	23.8
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	3	4	2	2	1	3	15	
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.56
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total No. of Deaths	227	201	325	284	163	102	1302	
Males	115	113	138	125	81	49	621	
Females	112	88	187	159	82	53	681	
Crude death-rate per 1000 population	12.9	11.9	16.1	14.2	13.0	15.0	13.9	
Comparative factor	0.76	0.89	0.55	0.76	0.71	0.72	0.74	
Comparative death-rate	9.8	10.6	8.9	10.8	9.2	10.8	10.3	11.7
Population—Registrar General's Estimate (Civilians and Non-Civilians)	17640	16840	20160	20030	12550	6780	94000	

TABLE II.

POPULATION OF COUNTY DISTRICTS.

Sanitary Authority.	Population at 1951 Census.	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for :				
		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
I.W. Rural District ...	17929	17540	17630	17750	17850	17640
Cowes U.D.	17154	16870	16840	16820	16860	16840
Newport M.B.	20426	19900	19840	19810	19190	20160
Ryde M.B.	20084	19730	19590	19760	19930	20030
Sandown-Shanklin U.D.	12693	12070	12350	12470	12530	12550
Ventnor U.D.	7308	6790	6890	6890	6840	6780
Whole County	95594	92900	93140	93500	93200	94000

TABLE III. SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS DURING TEN YEARS.
(1947—1956 Inclusive.)

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of Live Births ...	1780	1483	1363	1265	1230	1239	1215	1229	1198	1168
No. of Still births ...	29	40	41	28	44	18	32	32	26	27
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population ...	19.8	15.8	14.7	13.4	13.1	13.3	13.04	13.1	12.9	12.4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	16.0	26.3	29.2	21.65	34.5	14.3	25.7	25.4	21.2	22.6
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7
No. of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	68	40	42	29	31	27	23	32	28	20
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	38.2	27.0	30.8	22.9	25.2	21.8	18.9	26.0	23.4	17.1
Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales	41.0	34.0	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8
Population Registrar General's estimate...	89750	93640	93320	94210	94200	92900	93140	93500	93200	94000
No. of women dying in consequence of Childbirth:										
(a) From Sepsis	—	1	1	} 2	3	2	3	2	1	1
(b) From other causes	2	2	3							

BIRTHS.

The number of live births was 1,168 (30 less than in 1955) giving a live birth rate of 12.4 per 1,000 living (12.9). Seventy-one of these were illegitimate births as against 58, 53 and 76 for the previous three years.

Because of the difference in the sex and age distribution of the population throughout England and Wales, it is necessary to multiply the crude birth rate by a comparability factor (1.12) and when this is done the resulting rate is comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The comparative birth rate for the Island is therefore 12.4×1.12 or 13.9 against 15.7 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Twenty (28) infants died before reaching their first birthday and of these 15 (22) or 75.0 per cent died within four weeks of birth.

The infantile mortality rate for the year was 17.1 (23.4) per 1,000 live births. This is the lowest ever recorded for the Island. The figure of 23.8 for England and Wales is also a new low record.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths corrected for inward and outward transfers was 1,302 (1,339) giving a rate of 13.9 (14.4) per 1,000 of the population. If this is multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.74, we have an adjusted death rate of 10.3 (10.7) comparable with that of England and Wales which was 11.7 per 1,000.

Of the 1,302 deaths, 999 or 76.7 per cent (76.2 per cent) occurred in the 65 and over age group.

The deaths in the Island exceeded the live births by 134 (141).

TABLE IV.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS OF CERTAIN DISEASES FOR THE TEN YEARS, 1947—1956.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	46	30	28	24	19	14	14	16	10	8
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	7	4	4	3	1	3	1	—	1	1
Influenza	6	3	18	10	41	3	24	4	8	9
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	1	—	1	4	2	—	1	—	—	1
Cancer—all sites	202	186	186	210	206	230	244	212	232	219
Cancer—of lung and bronchus ...	† —	—	—	22	27	35	32	25	35	36
Vascular lesions of nervous system	162	145	137	192	184	190	212	210	198	188
Coronary disease—angina ...	† —	—	—	131	145	160	175	156	165	163
Other heart diseases	465	438	518	370	406	370	311	339	330	302
Other disease of circulatory system	37	34	33	41	33	41	38	39	43	57
Bronchitis	41	43	54	54	60	32	57	40	51	56
Pneumonia	36	33	35	28	37	38	60	61	57	75
Other respiratory diseases ...	10	14	11	7	19	9	6	13	18	15
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	10	1	2	—	7	4	1	8	7	5
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	1	1	} 2	3	2	3	2	1	1
Other maternal causes	2	2	3							
Congenital malformation	30	28	23	11	5	13	5	9	7	6
Motor vehicle accidents	2	9	6	3	3	4	3	11	9	6
All other accidents	—	—	—	18	19	14	18	25	26	27
Other violent causes	24	21	25	8	4	13	16	9	10	9
Isle of Wight.										
Death rate per 1,000 Population ...	14.7	12.9	13.9	14.2	14.8	14.3	14.4	14.2	14.4	13.9
*Comparable death rate per 1,000 ...	—	—	10.7	11.1	11.1	10.7	10.8	10.5	10.7	10.3
England & Wales.										
Death rate per 1,000 Population ...	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7

*Not available from 1940 until 1949.

†For years 1946—1949 inclusive, separate figures not available.

TABLE V. SHOWING DEATHS IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS. 10 YEARS 1947—1956.

AGES.			1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
0 - 1	Males ...	...	38	19	27	15	12	17	14	21	17	11
	Females	...	30	21	15	14	19	10	9	11	11	9
	TOTAL	...	68	40	42	29	31	27	23	32	28	20
1 — 4	Males ...	...	6	11	8	1	—	5	3	6	2	4
	Females	...	5	3	2	—	1	—	4	1	2	4
	TOTAL	...	11	14	10	1	1	5	7	7	4	8
5 — 14	Males ...	...	1	2	4	5	2	3	4	1	2	6
	Females	...	6	3	2	4	1	2	2	1	5	2
	TOTAL	...	7	5	6	9	3	5	6	2	7	8
15 — 44	Males ...	...	45	41	37	31	19	30	18	27	25	19
	Females	...	24	30	32	25	33	22	22	15	15	15
	TOTAL	...	69	71	69	56	52	52	40	42	40	34
45 — 64	Males ...	...	132	108	139	124	152	131	125	144	132	122
	Females	...	117	109	95	104	89	86	121	101	108	111
	TOTAL	...	249	217	234	228	241	217	246	245	240	233
65 and over	Males ...	...	409	374	433	464	481	476	456	463	481	459
	Females	...	502	488	496	555	582	551	564	536	539	540
	TOTAL	...	911	862	929	1019	1063	1027	1020	999	1020	999
GRAND TOTAL			1315	1209	1290	1342	1391	1333	1342	1327	1339	1302

STAFF.

(a) **Medical.** Whole-time.

Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer and Welfare Officer
 Assistant County Medical Officers (including maternity and child welfare, and school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts
 Assistant County Medical Officers (mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)
 Dental Surgeon (Schools and maternity and child welfare services)
 Assistant Dental Surgeons
 Advisor—Mental Health Services (part-time)
 Superintendent of Health Visitors
 Superintendent of Midwives

William S. Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 (Deputy County Medical Officer).
 Donald Warren Browne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
 D.T.M. & H. (Resigned 31-3-56).
 Peter Maxwell Browne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 Anne Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Margart Brodigan, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., D.P.H.
 (Appointed 24-5-56).
 Gerald Simons, L.D.S.
 James C. Lawson, L.D.S.
 Willie Maden, B.D.S.
 Alister E. Hurford, B.D.S.
 Charles Davies-Jones, M.B., Ch.B.
 Miss M. A. Gibbons, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
 Miss E. Moss, S.R.N., S.C.M.

(b) **Others.** Whole-time.

Remedial Gymnast
 Speech Therapist
 Ambulance Officer
 Hospital Car Organizer
 Home Help Organizer
 Supervisor, Occupation Centre
 Assistants, Occupation Centre
 Duly Authorised Officers and Welfare Officers
 Chief Clerk

Miss D. Hitchins, C.S.P., F.A.P.T.
 Miss L. Bierman, L.S.S.T. (Appointed 5-9-56).
 Mr. R. F. Sullivan.
 Miss C. Hind.
 Mrs. W. Janion.
 Miss C. T. Pickering.
 Miss G. Withers.
 Miss W. Phillips.
 Eric Bowley.
 George Gould.
 Miss H. Rickard.

The Committees concerned with public health are as follows :—

1. Health Committee Meets quarterly
2. Health General Purposes Sub-Committee Meets monthly
3. Mental Health Sub-Committee Meets quarterly
4. Care of the Aged and After Care Sub-Committee Meets alternate months

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 187—195.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

During 1956 one new nursing home was registered, none was closed and 23 were on the register on the 31st December, 1956. Of these six were for maternity cases, eight for medical cases only, three for maternity and medical and six for convalescent cases only (five for adults and one for children).

Fifty-five visits of inspection to the registered homes were made by the medical staff during the year.

Medical Examinations by the Medical Staff.

During the year, the Council's Medical Officers carried out 196 medical examinations for a variety of purposes, such as the fitness of successful applicants for posts under the various councils and the condition of children in the care of the Children's Committee.

Health Education.

The medical officers carry out continuous health propaganda at all suitable times and in addition are called on by various organisations to give set lectures on health matters. Sixty-two of these lectures were given during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1948, is not administered by the Health Committee and sampling duties are undertaken by the staff of the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council. As the Chief Inspector of that department publishes an annual report for the financial year, I append below a table showing a condensed summary of the results of sampling for the financial year 1956-57.

TABLE VI. SHOWING FOOD AND DRUGS OF WHICH SAMPLES WERE SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1957.

<i>Description of Sample.</i>	<i>Number obtained.</i>	<i>Number certified as satisfactory.</i>	<i>Number certified as adulterated or not up to standard.</i>
Meat Products	5	2	3
Milk and Cream	102	94	8
Beverages	7	5	2
Ice Cream	14	14	—
Drugs and Medicines	9	8	1
Sweets, Confectionery	3	1	2
Other Foods	66	59	7
Total	206	183	23

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

During the year, 685 samples of raw milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at the Central Laboratory, Milton Road, Portsmouth, where one was found to contain live tubercle bacilli.

When a sample of milk is reported as positive, arrangements are at once made for the milk from the herd to be heat treated until the affected animals have been traced by the veterinary inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The premises of the Isle of Wight Creameries, Mill Street, Newport, and of Stainers Dairies, Ryde, where milk is heat treated under licence, were inspected, and during the year 92 samples of treated milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test and Methylene Blue Test, one of which failed the Methylene Blue Test, and another failed both tests.

All producer retailers (non-designated and T.T.) are sampled on the average every six or seven weeks, and all producer non-retailers (milk sent to pasteurising plants) are sampled on the average every three months.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

TABLE VII.

1.	Number of Registered Dairy Farmers in the County 31-12-56 ...	...	...	...	...	...	532
	Number of herd inspections by Vets ...	...	...	...	...	...	646
	Number of animals examined ...	...	...	...	...	...	24,298
	Number of animals slaughtered under T.B. Order ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2.	Number of samples taken for T.B., year 1956 ...	...	...	...	...	...	685
	Number of samples positive ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Number of affected farms ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Number of visits to affected farms by Vets ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Number of cows slaughtered as result of above ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

TABLE VIII. SHOWING NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED.

Designation.	No. of Samples Col- lected.	Type of Examination.					
		Biological		Methylene Blue.		Phosphatase	
		Neg.	Pos.	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.
Raw Milk from Non-Designated and T.T. Herd ...	685	684	1	—	—	—	—
From Pasteurising Plants :							
Heat Treated T.T. ...	22	—	—	22	—	22	—
Heat Treated Non-Designated ...	48	—	—	46	2	47	1
Heat Treated Channel Island ...	22	—	—	22	—	22	—
Totals ...	777	684	1	90	2	91	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

TABLE IX.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

	Isle of Wight Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown- Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Totals.
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	15	1	12	3	1	1	33
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	1	9	—	1	7	21
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :							
Paralytic ...	1	2	—	3	—	—	6
Non-Paralytic ...	1	—	2	6	2	—	11
Infective Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	1	6	1	—	—	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	109	203	35	21	101	99	568
Whooping Cough ...	27	10	10	11	11	1	70
Dysentery ...	1	—	2	5	1	—	9
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningoccal Infection ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Para Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	4	—	3	—	—	—	7
*Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	11	19	16	8	6	76
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	3	1	2	2	—	11
Totals ...	182	232	100	68	127	115	824

*N.B.—These figures include notifications of 34 pulmonary cases which have come to reside in the Island.

Table IX shows the total number of notifications of infectious disease for the Island and the position in the County Districts. The total number was 824 which is 569 fewer than in 1955. Table X shows for the 10 years 1947-1956 the numbers of each disease notified. From it will be seen that we have had no cases of diphtheria since 1952 and only one since 1950. Scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and pneumonia accounted for fewer cases than in 1955, and for the first time during the decade no cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Of the total notifications of poliomyelitis 17 (six more than in 1955) six were paralytic and 11 non-paralytic. Every county district except Ventnor was affected and curiously enough only three of the cases occurred in the summer months. One case was notified in January, two in July, one in August, two in September, four in October, four in November and three in December.

The number of notifications of tuberculosis was also the lowest since 1948. Of the 87 cases, 76 were of respiratory disease and 11 of non-respiratory and of the 76, 34 were transfers from the mainland. In other words only 42 fresh cases of respiratory tuberculosis were detected on the Island in 1956.

TABLE X.—NOTIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Disease.	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	41	102	70	74	31	59	79	62	55	33
Diphtheria ...	20	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	24	26	24	26	34	14	39	13	22	21
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	15	6	7	4	6	2	7	6	6	—
Meningococ- cal Infection	2	1	2	2	2	—	2	1	—	1
Acute Polio- myelitis and Polio En- cephalitis ...	46	7	11	95	11	12	5	9	11	17
Acute Encephalitis Infective ...	1	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
Acute Enceph- alitis Post Infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	15	17	11	12	7	4	9	8	6	10
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ...	605	396	927	333	1825	201	2946	277	984	568
Whooping Cough ...	102	333	156	88	586	123	446	157	180	70
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	8	—	1	6	2	9
Malaria ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brucella Abortus In- fection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
† Food Poisoning	—	—	157	5	4	1	13	4	34	7
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	118	64	91	91	84	99	74	107	76	76
Tuberculosis Non-Pul- monary	28	28	26	23	33	33	29	22	17	11

† Notifiable as from 1-1-49.

TABLE XI.—CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE ISLAND DURING 1956
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP.

Age.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Poliomyelitis. Paralytic Non-P'lytic		Measles	Whooping Cough.	Food Poisoning.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	6	2	1
1 and under 2	—	—	—	1	53	4	—
2 and under 3	—	1	1	—	58	5	1
3 and under 4	—	2	1	—	52	8	—
4 and under 5	—	2	1	2	63	8	1
5 and under 10	—	24	1	1	298	37	3
10 and under 15	—	2	1	4	27	1	—
15 and under 25	—	1	—	1	7	2	—
25 and under 35	—	1	1	2	2	—	—
35 and under 45	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
45 and under 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	33	6	11	568	70	7

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

As a result of a memorandum on Ante Natal Care Related to Toxaemia issued by the Standing Maternity and Midwifery Advisory Committee of the Central Health Services Council, a meeting was called during the year to which were invited representatives of general practitioners, the consultant obstetrician and representatives of the medical staff of the Local Health Authority.

As a result of this meeting the ante natal scheme for the Island was amended and modified and submitted to the Isle of Wight Local Medical Committee for approval. If this is accepted and loyally implemented by the three bodies concerned in the maternity services, the co-operation between the general medical practitioners and the local health authority medical officers will be even closer than in the past and that between the obstetric department of the hospital, the general practitioners and our medical officers will be excellent.

Attendances at our ante natal clinics increased during the year and table XII shows that 508 women made 1,307 attendances in 1956 compared with 453 and 1,110 in 1955.

TABLE XII. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

	<i>No. of Clinics provided at end of year.</i>	<i>No. of Sessions held per month.</i>		<i>No. of Women in Attendance.</i>		<i>Total number of attendances made by women included in col. (4) during the year. (6)</i>
		<i>Medical Officers Sessions.</i>	<i>Mid- wives Sessions.</i>	<i>No. of women who attended during year.</i>	<i>No. of new cases included in col. (4).</i>	
(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)	(6)
Ante-natal Clinics ...	7	16	5	508	435	1307
Post-natal Clinics ...	*	*	*	14	14	14

*Post-Natal cases are seen at Ante-Natal Clinics.

The number of maternity outfits issued to domiciliary midwifery cases during the past eight years was as follows :—

1949	...	...	...	808
1950	...	...	...	692
1951	...	...	...	720
1952	...	...	...	676
1953	...	...	...	683
1954	...	...	...	585
1955	...	...	...	655
1956	...	...	...	585

Child Welfare.

Table XIII gives details of the situation of the various child welfare centres in the Island. The changes during the year included the opening of two small centres, at Calbourne and Newchurch meeting monthly and the closing of the small Centre at Arreton temporarily.

The total number of attendances during the year, 16,883, was some 3,782 more than in 1955. Of these attendances 10,978 (8,611) were made by infants under one year and 5,905 (4,490) by children between one and five years.

Name of Centre.	Place where Held.	How often Held.	Day and Time on which Doctor Attends. (All times are p.m.)	No. of Children who attended Centres during the year.	No. of Children who first attended the Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were :—		No. of Children who attended during the year who were then :—		Total No. of attendances made by Children in- cluded in column (5)	
					Under 1 year of age.	Over 1 year of age.	Under 1 year of age.	Between the ages of 1 and 5.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
*Arreton ...	Chapel Room	Monthly	Third Wednesday at 3.0	22	6	3	3	19	28	49
Bembridge ...	Chapel Room	Monthly	Third Monday at 3.0	41	12	3	13	28	46	82
Brading ...	Church Room	Monthly	Second Tuesday at 3.0	41	8	4	8	33	70	90
Brightstone and Brooke	Wilberforce Hall	Monthly	Third Tuesday at 3.0	26	10	6	12	14	90	130
Calbourne ...	The Rectory	Monthly	Second Tuesday at 3.0	13	7	6	7	6	28	24
Carisbrooke ...	Priory Secondary School, Medical Room	Twice Monthly	Third Wednesday at 2.45	47	19	3	19	28	195	76
Chale ...	Methodist Church Hall	Monthly	Fourth Tuesday at 3.0	33	5	—	4	29	44	75
East Coves ...	Church Hall	Twice Monthly	First and third Thurs- days at 2.30	82	43	2	36	46	384	137
Cowes ...	Northwood House	Weekly	Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2.30	197	92	5	79	118	1462	515
Freshwater ...	Nurses' Institute, Princes Rd.	Twice Monthly	First Wednesday at 2.30	238	108	125	80	158	910	861
Godshill ...	Village Hall	Monthly	Third Monday at 3.0	26	7	—	8	18	74	81
Newport ...	County Hall	Weekly	Second and Fourth Thursdays at 2.30	385	158	35	140	245	2127	1090
Newchurch ...	Parish Hall	Monthly	Third Monday at 3.0	33	10	22	10	23	37	57
Niton ...	Village Hall	Monthly	Last Friday at 3.0	41	12	—	12	29	67	52
Northwood ...	Women's Institute Hall	Twice Monthly	Fourth Wednesday at 2.30	53	21	—	21	32	266	118
Ryde ...	Methodist Hall, Well St.	Twice Weekly	Wednesday and Fridays at 2.30	418	180	8	152	266	3288	893
Binstead ...	The Institute, Binstead	Weekly	Tuesdays at 2.30	79	14	—	14	65	256	280
St. Helens ...	Lower Green, Metho- dist Sunday School	Monthly	Fourth Thursday at 2.30	47	16	3	13	34	37	149
*St. Lawrence ...	Old Park Farm, Ventnor	Monthly	Third Tuesday at 2.45	15	4	—	2	13	28	51
Sandown ...	Baptist Hall	Twice Monthly	Second and Fourth Fri- days at 2.30	178	69	15	51	127	606	405
Seaview ...	Methodist School	Monthly	First Monday at 2.30	60	18	6	16	44	88	117
Shanklin ...	Methodist Hall, Regent St.	Twice Monthly	Fourth Tuesday at 2.30	87	38	3	38	49	327	180
Ventnor ...	British Legion Hall, High St.	Twice Monthly	First Friday at 2.30	89	38	4	25	64	284	143
Wootton ...	Methodist Hall	Monthly	Fourth Friday at 3.0	41	12	—	12	29	102	68
Wroxall ...	Church Hall	Monthly	First Friday at 3.0	37	10	2	9	28	86	102
Yarmouth ...	The Institute	Monthly	Third Friday at 3.0	30	8	3	6	24	48	80

*Temporarily closed during year.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

During 1956 the following were issued :—

National Dried Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,435	tins
Orange Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	60,571	bottles
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,221	bottles
Vitamin Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,041	packets

The distribution, which commenced in 1954, has run smoothly and my thanks are due to all the voluntary helpers, W.V.S. and others who have operated the scheme.

One new Centre was opened at Lake Women's Institute during the year.

The situation, days and times of opening of the Centres are as follows :—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Name and Address of Centre.</i>	<i>Times of Opening.</i>
ARRETON	Post Office	Daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
BEMBRIDGE	Smith, Chemist, High Street.	Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
BEMBRIDGE	Welfare Centre, Chapel Room.	Third Monday in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
BRADING	Smith, Chemist, Bull Ring.	Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
BRIGHSTONE	Welfare Centre, Wilberforce Hall.	Third Tuesday in each month, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
CALBOURNE	Pinhorn Cottage.	Daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CHALE	Post Office Stores.	Daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Thursdays.
COWES	Old Mill Stores, Mill Hill Road.	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
COWES	Bostock, Chemist, 84, High Street.	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
EAST COWES	W.V.S., 12, York Avenue.	Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
EAST COWES	Welfare Centre, Church Hall, Adelaide Grove.	First and third Thursdays in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
FRESHWATER	Nurses' Home, Princes Road.	Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
GODSHILL	Welfare Centre, Village Hall.	Third Monday in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
LAKE	Women's Institute Hall, Denness Path.	Tuesdays, afternoons only.
NEWCHURCH	Welfare Centre, Village Hall.	Third Monday in each month, afternoons only.
NEWPORT	W.V.S. Report Centre, High Street.	Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Fridays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2.30 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
NEWPORT	Welfare Centre, County Hall.	Thursdays only, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
NITON	Cornerways, Niton Undercliff.	Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
PARKHURST	Albany Barracks.	Alternate Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (For Married Quarters personnel only).
PORCHFIELD	Post Office Stores	Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ROOKLEY	Post Office Stores.	Daily, except Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
RYDE	W.V.S., 25, Union Street.	Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
RYDE	Chapel Hall, Well Street Welfare Centre.	Wednesdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
ST. HELENS	Welfare Centre, Chapel School Room, Lower Green.	Fourth Thursday in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
SANDOWN	Pollard & Ramage, Chemists, High Street.	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
SANDOWN	Welfare Centre, Baptist Church Hall.	Second and Fourth Fridays in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
SEAVIEW	Beulah Chapel, Ryde Road.	First Monday in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
SHANKLIN	Welfare Centre, Methodist Church Hall.	Second and Fourth Tuesdays in each month, after- noons only.
SHANKLIN	W.V.S., 54, Prospect Road.	Mondays and Wednesdays, 2.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.
SHORWELL	West Court, Shorwell.	Alternate Mondays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
VENTNOR	W.V.S., 135, High Street.	Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
WOOTTON	Welfare Centre, Methodist Hall.	Fourth Friday in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
WOOTTON	Brading, Chemist, High Street.	Daily, from 9 a.m.
WROXALL	Welfare Centre, Church Hall.	First Friday in each month, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
YARMOUTH	Glasspool, Chemist, High Street.	Thursdays, 2.15 p.m. to 4 p.m.
WROXALL	Lunn, Post Office.	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Births.

The Island is credited by the Registrar General with 1,195 births whereas the number of births notified under the Act to the County Medical Officer was 1,208 and 6 other births took place which were not notified. The true figure for calculating the birth rate is that of the Registrar General for it is corrected for inward and outward transfers.

Table XIV shows that of the 1,208 notified, 1,182 were live births and 26 were still births. From the table can also be seen the numbers of babies born at home, in hospital and in nursing homes.

All of the six non-notified births took place at home.

TABLE XIV. DETAILS OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED TO THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER DURING 1956.

Year 1956.	Male.	Female.	Total Births.	Born at Home.	Born in Nursing Home.	Born in Hospital.	Total.
Live Births	604	578	1182	540	73	569	1182
Still Births	15	11	26	8	1	17	26
Total	619	589	1208	548	74	586	1208

Care of Premature Babies.

All babies with a birth weight of 5½lbs. or under are notified to the Local Health Authority and suitable action taken. Table XV shows particulars of the number notified and the fate of these babies up to the end of four weeks.

TABLE XV. CARE OF PREMATURE OR UNDERWEIGHT INFANTS (As adjusted by inward and outward transfers).

(i.e. babies weighing 5½lbs. or less at birth).										1955.	1956.
(a) <i>Premature Infants.</i>											
Number of notified premature or underweight infants born on the Island during 1955 and 1956										67	62
Percentage of all live births										5.6	5.2
Number of premature babies notified who were :—											
(a) Born at home										29	33
(b) Born in hospital										34	29
(c) Born in nursing homes										4	—
Number of those born at home who were :—											
(a) Nursed entirely at home										24	29
(b) Removed to hospital										5	4
Number of those born at home who died :—											
(a) During the first 24 hours										2	2
(b) Between 2nd and 28th day										1	1
Number of those born at home who survived at the end of four weeks... ..										26	30
Number of those born in hospitals who died :—											
(a) During the first 24 hours										3	5
(b) Between 2nd and 28th day										4	2
Number of those born in hospitals who survived at the end of four weeks										27	22
Number of those born in nursing homes :—											
(a) Who died during the first 24 hours										1	—
(b) Who died between the 2nd and 28th day										—	—
(c) Who survived at the end of one month										3	—
(b) <i>Stillbirths.</i>											
Number of Stillbirths :—											
(a) At home										3	1
(b) In nursing homes										—	—
(c) In hospitals... ..										9	5

There is no special domiciliary provision made for premature babies. Any baby requiring special care is admitted to the premature baby unit at St. Mary's Hospital.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Children under five with orthopaedic defects are seen at the clinic at St. Mary's Hospital which is held thrice monthly and to which the Regional Hospital Board sends a consultant. During the calendar year 235 attendances were made by 173 children under school age. Twelve children were referred from this clinic for treatment at the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton.

Dental Treatment.

The Council's Principal Dental Officer has kindly furnished the following report :—

"The Dental Officers have continued, throughout the year, to visit all the Welfare Clinics on the Island where they have examined the mouths of mothers and young children. It has been possible to allow the time necessary for giving complete treatment to all those who required and desired it. Patients not in attendance at clinics have applied direct for treatment also and some have been referred by the District Nurses.

Three hundred and ninety nine mothers were examined and 164 treated from a total of 206 needing treatment.

Of the young children 210 were found to require treatment out of 780 examined and 168 were actually treated.

The amount of work done showed a substantial increase on previous years both for mothers and the children. Artificial dentures were provided when necessary.

Much of the time of the Dental Officers at Welfare Clinics is taken up by giving advice and instruction on oral hygiene, instruction which, in many cases, is sadly needed."

A summary of the work performed is as follows :—

TABLE XVI. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE.

	<i>Examined.</i>	<i>Needing Treatment.</i>	<i>Treated.</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit.</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	399	206	164	112
Children under five	780	210	168	124

TABLE XVII. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED.

	<i>Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment.</i>	<i>Fillings.</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate treatment.</i>	<i>Crowns or Inlays.</i>	<i>Extractions.</i>	<i>General Anaesthetics.</i>	<i>Dentures provided.</i>		<i>Radio-graphs.</i>
							<i>Complete.</i>	<i>Partial.</i>	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	33	111	8	—	220	—	24	28	—
Children under five	4	144	83	—	100	—	—	—	—

Domiciliary Midwifery.

At the end of the year only two midwives were employed full-time in the domiciliary midwifery service and 28 general duty nurses also carry out midwifery. All are trained in giving gas and air analgesia and this was administered to 469 women during their confinements.

During the year 476 applications for admission to the maternity block at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on social grounds were received and 409 were recommended for admission.

Table XVIII shows the respective number of deliveries at home, in nursing homes and in hospital since 1948.

TABLE XVIII.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Births.</i>	<i>Born at Home.</i>	<i>Percent- age.</i>	<i>Born in Nursing Home.</i>	<i>Percent- age.</i>	<i>Born in Hospital.</i>	<i>Per cent- age.</i>
1948	1501	729	48.6	564	37.6	208	13.8
1949	1370	643	46.9	483	35.3	244	17.8
1950	1276	598	46.8	346	27.2	332	26.0
1951	1258	560	44.5	275	21.9	423	33.6
1952	1219	516	42.3	274	22.5	429	35.1
1953	1244	506	40.7	230	18.5	508	40.8
1954	1253	544	43.4	151	12.0	558	44.6
1955	1200	574	47.8	85	7.1	541	45.1
1956	1208	548	45.5	74	6.1	586	48.4

The above Table shows that that there were eight more births in 1956 than in 1955, and our domiciliary midwifery service dealt with 26 less confinements. Hospital confinements increased by 45 and those in nursing homes dropped by 11.

During the year 64 midwives notified their intention to practise, but six of these did not in fact practise. At the end of 1956, 49 state certified midwives were actually practising, ten in hospitals, 7 in nursing homes, two independently and 30 on the staff of the Local Health Authority.

Ten supervisory visits were paid to midwives by the medical supervisors and 32 by the non-medical supervisor.

TABLE XIX. Summary of returns submitted by the 64 midwives during 1956.

	<i>No. of confinements attended.</i>				<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Doctor not Booked.</i>		<i>Doctor Booked.</i>		
	<i>Doctor present</i>	<i>Doctor not present</i>	<i>Doctor present</i>	<i>Doctor not present</i>	
By Midwives					
(a) Council's Domiciliary Midwives	4	31	276	265	576
(b) Independent midwives	—	2	35	9	46
(c) In Hospital	—	—	77	501	578
By Maternity Nurses					
(a) Qualified midwives ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Not a qualified midwife	—	—	—	—	—
	4	33	388	775	1200

During the year twin births occurred in 14 cases.

In 18 instances, midwives sent for medical aid and an analysis of the aid forms shows that seventeen were in respect of the mother and one for the baby. A further analysis of these seventeen, shows that eleven were for complications of pregnancy and six for causes arising out of labour.

In addition to the above summonses for medical aid, the midwives forwarded the following notifications :—

Performing last office	5
Liability to be a source of infection	4
Artificial feeding	9
Stillbirths	14
Death	5

Caesarean Section.

Nineteen of the deliveries on the Island were by section. All took place at St. Mary's Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases were notified during the year.

Maternal Deaths.

There was one maternal death during the year which occurred at home.

Health Visiting.

Only 3 whole-time health visitors are employed by the Council but 15 others carry out health visiting duties of which 8 hold the Health Visitors Certificate.

Only one nurse was sponsored by the Council for health visitor training at Southampton University during the year and she gained the necessary certificate.

Table XX shows the work of the health visiting staff during the year as far as expectant mothers and young children are concerned.

TABLE XX.

Year	No. of visits paid by Health Visitors			
	To Expectant Mothers	To children under 1	To children between 1-5	Other Cases
1949	355	8296	6955	394
1950	446	7936	7738	453
1951	774	9298	7781	556
1952	487	10177	7846	588
1953	380	8317	10216	1435
1954	391	8924	10390	1431
1955	1624	10050	11349	1832
1956	2249	9708 (1081)	12404 (1004)	2238 (100)

The figures in brackets are the number of no access visits.

Soon the Health Committee must reach a decision whether or not to implement the proposals made under Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, *i.e.*, that the Health Visiting Service should be a separate service from the District Nursing Service.

Home Nursing.

In my report for 1955, I drew attention to the gradual increase in the work done by the home nurses each year and made some comments on the reasons for this. In 1956 some 400 more cases were nursed than in 1955 and some 8,600 more visits were paid. In 1956 the number of patients over 65 years of age increased from 1,616 to 2,016 an increase of 25 per cent, thus adding to the work of our nurses. Nor is the nursing of the aged sick the whole story for frequently the Nurse in attendance finds herself involved, for the benefit of her patient, in contacting other services such as the Home Help Service, the National Assistance Board and voluntary organisations such as the Old People's Welfare Association.

The proportion of surgical to medical nursing cases remained about the same as in 1955 and the number of nursing visits to sick children remained low.

During the year as a result of a review into the administration of the Council's Services attention was drawn to the cost of the home nursing and midwifery services. In both these services our costs per 1,000 of the population exceeded that for all administrative counties in England and Wales and it was therefore decided to investigate the extent of the staffing.

As a result of this the Council decided to make some cuts and this was done not by discharging any staff but by retiring without replacement nurses and midwives who had reached retiring age.

The recent Whitley Council Award of an extra week's holiday for district nurses added to the increase in the amount of the work and may make it necessary soon to reconsider the numbers on the staff.

None of the Council's nurses took the Queens District Training during the year.

TABLE XXI.

Year.	No. of cases attended by Home Nurses.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses.
1949	3267	61855
1950	3257	67181
1951	3621	70846
1952	3772	73196
1953	4488	75981
1954	3951	79586
1955	3980	62308
1956	4410	70997

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

No alterations were made during the year in our procedure for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and Tables XXII and XXIII show the position.

TABLE XXII gives the position as far as is known for the period 1st January—31st December, 1956.

	<i>Vaccinations.</i>		<i>Number of persons Re-Vaccinated</i>		<i>Diphtheria Immunisations.</i>		
	<i>Children under 5</i>	<i>Age 5 +</i>	<i>Children under 5</i>	<i>Age 5 +</i>	<i>Children Immunised.</i>		<i>No. of Children who received re-inforcing doses.</i>
					<i>Under 5</i>	<i>Over 5</i>	
By General Practitioners	378	33	2	15	610	21	107
By Authority's Staff ...	217	—	—	—	405	164	734

Table XXIII shows a summary of the immunisation state of the Isle of Wight children arranged in districts.

	<i>Urban Districts.</i>			<i>Borough Districts.</i>		<i>Rural District.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Cowes</i>	<i>Sandown- Shanklin</i>	<i>Ventnor</i>	<i>Newport</i>	<i>Ryde</i>	<i>I.W.R.D.</i>	
Number born in years as stated below and fully immunised by 31-12-56 :							
1956	21	24	1	42	20	36	144
1955	118	102	39	141	193	142	735
1954	135	107	31	182	176	144	775
1953	154	134	38	186	227	169	908
1952	153	130	43	184	190	165	865
Total	581	497	152	735	806	656	3427
Percentage fully immun- ised by 31-12-56 ...							57.1
Number of children born in 5—9 age group as stated fully immunised by 31-12-56 :							
Ages 5—9, <i>i.e.</i> , born							
1947-51 ...	1188	812	365	1405	1302	1346	6418
Ages 10—14 ...	1316	885	385	1410	1194	1181	6371
Total	2504	1697	750	2815	2496	2527	12789
Percentage of children age 5—14 years im- munised on 31-12-56...							86.4
Total number of children immunised on 31-12-56	3085	2194	902	3550	3302	3183	16216
Percentage of children under 15 immunised on 31-12-56							78.0

In the spring of 1956 registration began for poliomyelitis vaccination. All children born between 1947 and 1954 were eligible to register and 882 did register but because of the limited supply of vaccine available only those children born in the month of November in each of the years 1947 to 1954 and in addition, the month of March in each of the years 1951 to 1954 were vaccinated and some of these only had one dose. In all when the first batches of vaccine were used 107 children had two doses and seven had one dose. In December, 1956, a further consignment was obtained and all of the children who had received only one injection in the early summer were given their second, plus one other child who had received one dose on the mainland and was due to receive the second.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Although the demand for transport by ambulance shows signs of having reached its peak, the calls on the hospital cars still continue to increase but the greatest care is taken to ensure that the service is not abused and all concerned are most co-operative to this end.

Although the Council has altered its proposals under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act to enable air transport to the mainland to be put into operation when sea transport could not reasonably be used there has not, during the year under review been much call for this. Now, however, that the convenience of transport by helicopter has been demonstrated we are being asked to provide this in certain cases of emergency, and the closest scrutiny of any demand will be necessary.

On two occasions in November, 1956, the use of a helicopter was sanctioned by me to transport to a special hospital unit on the mainland one serious accident case with multiple cranial injuries and one very severe burned case.

The radio telephones are working efficiently and are much appreciated.

TABLE XXIV.

<i>Ambulance and Hospital Car.</i>	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Total Number of Patients	29,456	33,481	37,738	45,074	39,151
Total Mileage	249,345	255,317	266,621	297,642	290,447
Average No. of miles per patient	8.4	7.6	7.0	6.6	7.4
No. of patients carried per 1000 population ...	317	359	403	484	416

TABLE XXV shows the use which has been made of the ambulance service during the financial year 1956-57.

		<i>No. of Vehicles on 31st March, 1957.</i>	<i>Total No. of patients carried during the year ended 31st March, 1957.</i>	<i>Total No. of Journeys during the year ended 31st March, 1957.</i>	<i>Total Mileage during the year ended 31st March, 1957.</i>	<i>No. of Journeys to Mainland by Island Ambulances.</i>	<i>No. of Mainland Journeys arranged through other Authorities.</i>
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Directly Provided Service	*Ambulances	7	8178	4516	87403	69	67
	Cars ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agency Service ...	Ambulances	1	488	287	8853	1	—
	Cars ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Services	Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cars ...	31	30433	10929	193856	—	303
	Hired Cars ...	As and when required	52	28	335	—	—

*Including 1 Utilecon "Sitting-case" vehicle.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER CARE.

Tuberculosis.

TABLE XXVI. —SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory System.		Other Forms.		Respiratory System.		Other Forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5— ...	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10— ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15— ...	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
20— ...	3	8	—	1	—	—	—	—
25— ...	7	16	1	1	2	—	—	—
35— ...	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— ...	7	3	1	—	2	—	—	—
55— ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	7	3	1	—	4	—	—	—
Totals 1956 ...	39	44	6	5	8	—	1	—
Totals 1955 ...	41	39	9	10	6	4	—	1

These figures include a few patients who have been re-instated on the register.

Table XXVI shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths from the disease for the year under review. It will be seen that there were 5 less notifications of all forms of tuberculosis and two less deaths.

Table XXVIII shows the yearly number of fresh Island cases of tuberculosis notified and is divided into five year periods. It will be seen that the numbers are steadily decreasing.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The following figures show the position with regard to the vaccination against tuberculosis of school children.

Number of children who had preliminary tuberculin test	...	...	...	...	...	773
Number found with positive reaction	...	...	...	...	...	297
Number found with negative reaction	...	...	...	...	...	459
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	...	...	...	...	453
Number tested but absent on day of reading of test	...	...	...	...	...	17

Consent of a parent in all cases is sought to the preliminary testing, the vaccination and the post vaccination test. During the year the refusals were approximately 27%.

Dr. A. K. Miller, the Chest Physician, has kindly submitted the following report :—

(1) Number of observation cases seen at clinic	...	...	...	...	2252
(2) Number of contacts of known tuberculosis cases examined	...	...	...	...	1142
(3) Number of domiciliary visits paid to patients	...	...	...	...	97
(4) Number of skin and mantoux tests performed	...	...	...	...	452
(a) Found positive	...	...	...	...	332
(b) Found negative	...	...	...	...	120
					452
(5) Number of post B.C.G. tests carried out	...	...	...	...	284

The vaccination of contacts of cases of tuberculosis and others, *e.g.*, hospital nurses, is now done by the Health Department and for the year 1956, 79 were vaccinated with B.C.G.

The patient who in 1955 was admitted to Enham Alemein Village Centre for rehabilitation and subsequent training was still there at the end of 1956. Another patient was admitted to the Rehabilitation Centre at Maidstone, Kent on August 1st, 1956, but took his own discharge a few days later on August 13th, 1956.

Extra nourishment was provided during the year for nine sufferers from tuberculosis and bedding and clothing were provided for two patients.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor attended 222 sessions at the Chest Clinic and paid 1049 visits (including 240 "no access" visits) of which 184 were first visits, 393 subsequent visits and 232 special visits. The purpose of these visits was to investigate social conditions, to search for contacts and to arrange for their examination at the Chest Clinic.

In addition, the District Nurses paid 191 nursing visits to tuberculous households.

TABLE XXVII.—SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS SHOWING THAT THERE WERE 884 CASES ON THE REGISTER ON THE 1st JANUARY and 914 ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Note.—This table does not include the deaths of persons not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis and therefore not on the registers.

Number of Patients.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1955	373	321	83	107	456	428
Added during 1956 (cases arising on the Island)	24	18	6	5	30	23
Cases removed from other areas	10	24	—	—	10	24
Old case 'Left' returned	2	1	—	—	2	1
Old 'Cured' re-admitted	—	1	—	—	—	1
Old 'Mistaken diagnosis' re-admitted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gross Total	409	365	89	112	498	477
Removed to other areas during 1956 ...	13	15	—	2	13	17
Removed—'Lost sight of'	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed	—	—	1	1	1	1
Removed from Register as being 'Cured'	5	3	3	5	8	8
Died during 1956	5	—	1	—	6	—
Died from other diseases	2	4	—	1	2	5
Totals to be removed from Register	25	22	5	9	30	31
Number on Register at the end of 1956	384	343	84	103	468	446

TABLE XXVIII. DETAILS OF NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS RECEIVED.
(FRESH ISLAND CASES ONLY.)

Year.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total.
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
1936 ...	26	29	55	8	14	22	77
1937 ...	35	28	63	26	17	43	106
1938 ...	30	29	59	8	15	23	82
1939 ...	33	23	56	10	7	17	73
1940 ...	34	17	51	14	4	18	69
1941 ...	24	18	42	10	14	24	66
1942 ...	50	21	71	12	18	30	101
1943 ...	49	38	87	10	4	14	101
1944 ...	49	33	82	7	13	20	102
1945 ...	39	31	70	11	2	13	83
1946 ...	42	20	62	5	9	14	76
1947 ...	37	36	73	17	11	28	101
1948 ...	23	18	41	8	16	24	65
1949 ...	43	27	70	14	10	24	94
1950 ...	32	26	58	9	12	21	79
1951 ...	30	26	56	12	21	33	89
1952 ...	35	23	58	19	11	30	88
1953 ...	24	21	45	18	9	27	72
1954 ...	39	20	59	9	11	20	79
1955 ...	22	24	46	7	6	13	59
1956 ...	24	18	42	6	5	11	53

Table XXVII shows the position of the tuberculosis register at the beginning and end of the year and from it can be noted that of the 91 new additions, 53 were primary notifications, 34 were cases removed from other areas, one was an old "cured" case re-admitted, and three were returned cases. Not shown on Table XXVII but included in Table XXVI were three cases coming to our notice after death.

Of the 94 new cases shown on Table XXVI, it is interesting to note that 34 or just over one third were in persons who have come to reside in the County.

B. Other Provision.

Two persons were sent for a recuperative holiday during the year, one to the Harriet Guy Memorial Home, Gurnard, and the other, a small baby, to Princes Meade Recovery Home, Seaview.

In addition, supplementary diets were provided for two persons and many medical and nursing aids were provided on loan for domiciliary cases of illness.

PROBLEM FAMILIES.

During the year more attention was given by the health visiting staff to investigate potential problem families. When such are discovered a conference is called to which are invited the health visitor concerned, the medical officer of health of the district, the probation officer, the education welfare officer, the home help organiser, and others concerned. The case is discussed, suggestions made and directions given.

Two such cases were investigated during the year where it was felt that with advice from the health visitor and guidance from a home help, a difficult period could be tided over with co-operation from the family concerned.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The Home help Organiser has provided the following report :—

"This service continues to expand and is increasingly called upon by Doctors, Nurses, Health Visitors and Almoners. Six main groups of householders receive the services of a Home Help :—

1. The Aged.

2. The Chronic Sick.
3. The Acutely Ill.

4. The Convalescent.
5. Confinements.

6. The Mentally Afflicted.

It is among the first group that the demand for domestic help is the greatest, 70 per cent of all cases attended being in this category and it is worthy of note that the majority of these old people would be unable to live on in their homes without the attendance of a Home Help and the happiness and comfort the service brings into their lives cannot be estimated in terms of economy.

The Home Help Service is proving of considerable assistance to Hospital Almoners and a Home Help, by attending on patients waiting to be admitted and those ready to be discharged, relieves the crisis arising from shortage of beds.

During the year 81 home confinements have been attended.

Home Helps have also been useful in giving help and reassurance to cases of nervous exhaustion, thereby preventing a complete breakdown.

This year the Service has been extended to provide a Night Attendant Service. This has been very greatly appreciated on the several occasions it has been sent in to dying persons whose relations or friends were becoming worn out.

Fifty Home Helps are now employed and working to full capacity, serving approximately 270 cases a month. It is satisfactory that the high standard of morale and integrity of these women continues to be maintained.

On the whole it may be said that this service, in spite of its limitations and difficulties, is now earning an indispensable place in the Health Service."

Table XXIX shows the position for each month of the year with the corresponding figures for 1955 in brackets.

TABLE XXIX.

Month.	No. of cases served.	Contributions required in full.	Part contributions required.	No contribution required.
January	229 (209)	30 (17)	184 (176)	15 (16)
February	241 (216)	33 (22)	190 (179)	18 (15)
March	248 (227)	27 (22)	205 (187)	16 (18)
April	254 (226)	32 (22)	206 (186)	16 (18)
May	257 (213)	29 (15)	209 (182)	19 (16)
June	260 (219)	30 (29)	209 (176)	21 (14)
July	269 (229)	36 (37)	212 (178)	21 (14)
August	247 (228)	25 (32)	203 (180)	20 (16)
September	257 (231)	26 (33)	210 (182)	21 (16)
October	265 (220)	26 (27)	215 (178)	24 (15)
November	264 (228)	25 (27)	216 (186)	23 (15)
December	259 (224)	24 (24)	211 (182)	24 (18)

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948.

Under this Act, which came into force on the 30th July, 1948, the County Council is responsible for the supervision :—

- (a) of premises in their area, other than premises wholly or mainly used as private dwellings, where children are received to be looked after for the day or a substantial part thereof, or for any longer period not exceeding six days ; and
- (b) of persons who for reward receive into their homes three or more children (other than relatives) under the age of five for the day or a substantial part thereof or for any longer period not exceeding six days.

At the end of 1956 there was only one registration of premises admitting a maximum number of 14 children. The person in charge of these premises is also registered as a Daily Minder.

MENTAL HEALTH.

The Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee meets quarterly to direct the work carried out under statute.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930.

The two Duly Authorised Officers who carry out the statutory requirements of the above Acts dealt with 93 patients as follows :—

Lunacy Act, 1890 :

Section 11 (Urgency Order)	...	...	...	...	...	27*	(25)
Section 16 (Summary Reception Order)	...	...	...	...	...	37	(40)
Section 20 ("Three-Day" Order)	...	...	...	...	...	19†	(12)

Mental Treatment Act, 1930 :

Section 1 (Voluntary)	2	(4)
Section 5 (Temporary)	—	(—)

<i>No action required</i>	8	(7)
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*Seventeen of these cases were subsequently certified, seven became voluntary patients, one was dealt with as a temporary patient, and two were discharged on the expiration of the Orders.

†Seven of these cases were subsequently certified, eleven became voluntary patients, and one was discharged on the expiration of the Order.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

In regard to the work done during the year under review, I have to report the following :—

(a) *Ascertainment.*

The work of ascertaining mental defectives has continued to be carried out from reports received from parents, doctors, school teachers, nurses, etc. The number of cases ascertained during the year are as follows :—

Reported by Local Education Authorities and found "subject to be dealt with" :

Under Section 57 (3), Education Act, 1944.	...	...	...	...	3	(2)
Under Section 57 (5), Education Act, 1944.	...	...	...	...	3	(1)
Other cases reported and found "subject to be dealt with"	...	...	...	...	4	(3)
Total cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with"	...	...	...	...	10	(6)
Other cases reported who are not at present "subject to be dealt with" but for whom the Local Health Authority may later become liable	...	...	...	...	6	(3)
Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December	...	...	...	...	—	(2)
Total number of cases reported during the year	...	...	...	...	16	(11)

(b) *Admission of Cases to Institutions.*

Arrangements were made for fifteen cases (eight males and seven females) to be admitted to institutional care during the year, under Orders made under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938. Of these cases, all of whom were admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, or ancillary premises at Longford Hospital, Havenstreet, two (males) were transferred from guardianship, one (female) was transferred from Field Place Approved Home, New Milton, Hampshire, one (female) was admitted under an Order made by the Court in accordance with Section 8(1) of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, one (male) was admitted from one of the Council's Children's Homes, and ten (five males and five females) were admitted direct from their own homes.

At the end of the year, two cases were awaiting vacancies in Institutions.

(c) *Guardianship and Supervision.*

Cases under Guardianship and Supervision at the end of the year number as follows :—

Guardianship	...	...	...	...	...	25*	(27)
Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	194	(186)
Total	...	...	...	...	...	219	(213)

*During the period under review, two cases (male) were transferred to Institutional care.

(d) *Occupation Centre.*

A property adjacent to the Occupation Centre in Crocker Street, Newport, was purchased, reconstructed and embodied into the existing Centre. This has proved a great boon to the children and staff, for there is now ample room for all the activities of the Centre.

Miss Pickering, M.B.E., and her staff continue to carry out the excellent work with these mentally handicapped children and young persons, and now that the premises have been improved and gaily decorated the visitor to the Centre gets an impression of a happy and industrious atmosphere. The behaviour and demeanor of the occupants will compare favourably with any school in the County. No longer is there difficulty in persuading parents or guardians to send their children to the Centre.

The staff are to be congratulated, not only on their zeal in the Centre, but also for their "extra mural" activities on behalf of their pupils. It is no easy undertaking to take a party of 20-30 mentally defective children and young adults for a days outing in London, but this was done once again during the year and a very happy time was had by all.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (PART III).**Accommodation.**

No alteration took place during the year in the amount of residential accommodation provided by the Council as Welfare Authority and the number of places is as indicated in my report for 1955.

The care and attention which our old folk receive in the Council's guest houses quite definitely prolongs their life span, thus producing further problems. With increasing age there is increasing feebleness, necessitating greater care and attention, and consequently more staff is required to deal with the same numbers.

Each year, too, more old people reach the "in need of care and attention" category than are carried off by death, and further accommodation becomes necessary. Staffing of this accommodation is becoming increasingly difficult.

I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that the small residential home accommodating up to 30-40 persons is not the complete answer to the problem and I feel sure that ultimately the Council will require to change its policy. A certain number of these homes will always be necessary, but they should be suitably staffed and reserved for the type of old person who is so crippled by age and its sequelae that they are non-mobile. For the more active, aggregations of small bungalows with communal dining and lounge accommodation and with a warden appointed for the group would meet the case. The Council's Domestic Help Service could be used economically in such a colony.

Other Welfare Authorities are developing such projects and find that the system is economical in staff, avoids many of the troubles which arise in residential homes where all sorts of incompatibles are brought together and expected to live in harmony, and has the great advantage of allowing old people to remain longer in surroundings to which they are accustomed.

Table XXX shows the position at the beginning and end of the year as regards the bed state and indicates that there were nine vacancies on December 31st, 1956. The waiting list for accommodation at the same date was 24.

TABLE XXX.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of Residents in Part III Accommodation on 31-12-55 ...	62	114	176
Number of Residents admitted direct to Part III Accommodation	37	46	83
Number of Residents transferred from the care of the Regional Hospital Board to Part III Accommodation	5	22	27
	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 182	<hr/> 286
Number of Residents transferred to the care of the Regional Hospital Board	18	29	47
Number of Residents discharged	13	20	33
Number of Residents who died	8	15	23
	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 103
Total number of Residents in Part III Accommodation on 31-12-56	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 118	<hr/> 183*
*Number of Residents in St. Lawrence Dene Guest House ... ..	...	25 men	21 women
" " " " Elmdon Guest House ... ..	...	6 "	22 "
" " " " Polars Guest House ... ..	...	8 "	20 "
" " " " Blind Home ... ..	...	5 "	17 "
" " " " Osborne Cottage ... ..	...	12 "	25 "
" " " " Lower St. Mary's Hospital ... ..	...	9 "	13 "
	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 118	

The standard charge in respect of one case included in Table XXX was being recovered from the Welfare Authority in whose area the person concerned was ordinarily resident.

In addition, the Authority also maintained 30 aged or handicapped persons in accommodation provided by voluntary organisations, *viz.*, two at Chalfont and two at Lingfield Epileptic Colonies, six in the W.V.S. Residential Club at Sandown, seven in the Church Army Home for aged men in Newport, one at the Southern Railway Homes at Woking, two in Roper House Home for the Deaf at Canterbury, three in Arundel House, Ventnor, and seven in Debourne, Cowes.

Registration of Premises.

Two new premises were registered in 1956 in accordance with the National Assistance (Registration of Homes) Regulations, 1949, making in all seven premises so registered. Of these, six are homes for old persons and one for old persons and disabled persons.

WELFARE SERVICES.

The Blind.

During the year 11 males and 32 females were registered as blind after completion of form B.D.8.

The age groups were as follows :—

							<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1 and under	5	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
50	64	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
65	70	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
70	75	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
75	80	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
80	85	...	...	...	...	...	6	10
85	90	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
90	100	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
							—	—
							11	32
							—	—

Cataract was certified as the cause of the blindness in 22 cases, glaucoma in 6 and other causes in 15.

Table XXXI shows the results of follow up of cases registered during the year and Table XXXII the position as regards training for employment of the cases registered in 1956.

TABLE XXXI.

(A) FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

	<i>Cause of Disability.</i>			
	<i>Cataract</i>	<i>Glaucoma</i>	<i>Retrolental Fibroplasia</i>	<i>Others</i>
(i) Number of cases registered during 1956 in respect of which para. 7(c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—				
(a) No treatment	14	4	1	14
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	8	1	—	—
(ii) Number of cases at (i)(b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	1	—	—

(B) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	Nil.
(ii) Number of cases in which :—	
(a) Vision lost	Nil.
(b) Vision impaired	
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	

The following table shows that there were 226 blind persons registered in the Island at the end of 1956 and the position as to their training and employment :—

TABLE XXXII.

Age period.	In training at College or School.		Employed.		Subject to being trained.		Not available for work.		Unemployable.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0— 2 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2— 4 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
16—20 ...	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
21—39 ...	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	5	—
40—49 ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3	1	2
50—59 ...	—	—	5	—	1	—	2	6	2	2
60—64 ...	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	3	6	2
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	54	109
Total ...	1	1	*16	*3	2	—	3	13	70	117

*Employed. Males (16) ... 1 Mat Maker (in Portsmouth Workshops)
2 Braille Copyists
2 Boot and Shoe Repairers
1 Basket Worker
1 Chair Seater
3 Tea Agents and Shopkeepers
1 Gardener
1 Masseur and Physiotherapist
1 Minister of Religion
1 Weaver
1 Piano Tuner
1 Factory Operative
Females (3) ... 2 Clerk and Shorthand Typists
1 Machine Knitter

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

No change was made in the arrangements for the welfare of the deaf during the year.

The Missioner of the Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Channel Islands Association for the Deaf, which acts as the agent for the Welfare Authority has sent me the following report :—

“The register shows a total of 98. Of these 20 are classified deaf and dumb, having been deaf from birth or early infancy. One is registered deaf-blind. There are five children attending schools for the deaf. The remainder (72) are registered as hard of hearing.

The club room at 14a, St. James’ Streect, is used on Saturdays by the deaf and dumb. There is also a regular service held at Newport Parish Church every four weeks. Members of the club are able to use the club room at any time for the purpose of viewing television programmes that may appeal to them.

The club is used on Mondays for lip reading classes which are now under the auspices of this Association. The teacher is Miss Wale who previously conducted the classes at Sandown under the Education Authorities.

Visits are made to people throughout the Island as the need arises and all the people on the register are notified of the activities at the club. Two school leavers are now working, one having been found accommodation and work in London at his own request. The Association was able to make financial arrangements in conjunction with the County Council and the National Institute for the Deaf to enable this boy to live at St. Nicholas Hostel, Wembley.

Donations are received for the voluntary fund from all parts of the Island and spccial efforts are made through the Alexandra Rose Day organizers to build up a voluntary fund.

The Isle of Wight Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Wallace, had one meeting during the year.

The Association is indebted to the Vicar of Newport, Rev. C. Farnsworth, for the use of the Church and to Mr. F. Chiverton and the St. Thomas’ Bible Class for hospitality on Sunday afternoons.”

Other Handicapped Persons.

The Welfare Authority has not yet seen its way to prepare a scheme (under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948) to make arrangements for promoting the welfare of persons handicapped otherwise than by blindness or deafness.

Although the numbers involved are not great, the absence of such a scheme has precluded the Authority from making contributions to voluntary organisations which promote the welfare of other handicapped persons and from assisting in the maintenance of other handicapped persons in hostels connected with workshops for the disabled.

